

Recommended Education Topics for Chapter Meetings

	Topics	Alternatives
May	Law Week Program – 2004 Law Day theme is “To Win Equality by Law”	Pro Bono Activities in the Legal Community – Showcase opportunities for your members to get involved in legal services to minors, seniors, and indigents.
June	Hot Topics – It’s summer! What’s the “hot” topic in your community? Don’t forget specialty areas of law such as bankruptcy, environmental, aviation, maritime, workers’ comp, and entertainment or sports law.	Program Planning – Invite members to join the board/chairs in a program planning, goal setting, idea generating session for the coming year. Make it a casual, fun event with lots of food (for thought!)
July	Litigation Update – Many states enact new rules in January and July. Invite a court clerk to discuss the changes.	Interchapter Event – Invite other chapters of professional associations in your area to join you at the races or for an outdoor concert.
August	Real Estate/Finance – Contact a title company for an update on forms, ask your county recorder to explain what his/her office does, have a real estate attorney talk about purchase/financing a home.	Game Night – Have a spelling bee, play Password, Jeopardy, or Family Feud – all with a legal theme of course. Invite firms or attorney/staff teams to compete. A great way to beat the summer doldrums!
September	Membership Drive – Now’s the time to re-energize your association and re-awaken the legal community to all you have to offer. See books 5 and 11 for ideas.	Speaker Education – Get your members ready for Back to School Night or Career Day in the schools. Teach them what to say, and how to say it.
October	Court Observance Week Programs – 2004 topic is “And Justice For Youth.”	Court Observance Week Programs – Check the Jett Awards for successful programs utilized in other associations.
November	Office Automation/Technology – Showcase the new products for the coming year. Invite IT managers from various law firms to attend and share what is on the horizon from their perspective.	Give Thanks – Say thank you to all those individuals who make it possible for your members to be active in NALS...the babysitter, the boss who pays dues or meeting expenses, the spouse who cooks or picks up the kids on meeting nights, the friend who carools.
December	Criminal Law/Personal Safety – December can be a high crime month. Invite a police safety officer to discuss prevention or an attorney to discuss DUI cases.	Charitable Event – Adopt a family, bake goodies for a Senior Center or children’s home.
January	Building on Your Career – Contact a temporary or placement service to provide industry trends and employment outlooks for the year ahead.	Award of Excellence/Employer Appreciation – NALS recommends that this meeting include Employers as a way of saying thanks and showcasing an outstanding member as a way of enlightening employers as to the benefits of NALS.
February	Appellate Procedures – Invite an appellate court clerk to give the “inside scoop” on procedures.	Vendor/Sponsor Program – Showcase the “sweethearts” of your association...the advertisers/vendors/sponsors who support you.
March	NALS Programs – Share with your members what’s new in NALS; how and when to register for exams, obtain CLE awards, recertify, etc. This is a great “filler” during election night.	Exam Week Bonanza – Treat your members who are sitting for the PLS/ALS exams as the special people they are. Provide chair massages during the lunch break, take them out to dinner after the exam to celebrate.
April	Ethics – Invite a judge, malpractice carrier or attorney to discuss ethical issues for the non-lawyer.	Leadership Symposium – Recap all of the sessions from Tulsa for the benefit of your members or pick one or two to showcase.